



STATE OF WASHINGTON
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION (MAA)
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES (DSHS)
P.O. Box 45500, Olympia, Washington 98504-5500

September 15, 2003

Mr. Mike Fiori, Director
Division of Integrated Health Services
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop: C2-21-15
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Dear Mr. Fiori:

Enclosed is a respond to your August 29, 2003 letter outlining questions to be answered pending the approval of our Section 1115 Waiver request. Also included is a diskette with electronic versions of the responses and exhibits in Microsoft Word and Excel format. One response includes information sent to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. We do not have electronic versions of the document so we have included two hardcopies for your review.

Based on discussions with your staff and the questions in your letter, we believe there are two outstanding issues that need to be addressed in order to obtain an approved waiver.

1. Agreement on the trend factor that will be used in determining per-capita cap budget neutrality over the five year waiver period; and,
2. Whether CMS has authority to grant a waiver of comparability to allow Washington to exempt American Indians (AI)/Alaska Native (NA) children from premium requirements.

Again, we appreciate your commitment to complete the application process by October first. We hope this is helpful. If you need further information, please contact us at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Roger Gantz, Director
Division of Policy and Analysis
Medical Assistance Administration
Department of Social and Health Services
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Enclosure

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